

The Office Action asserts that Matsumura discloses a supporting plate 261 housed between the upper case 221 and lower case 211, as recited in claim 1. However, as clearly shown in Figs. 6-8 of Matsumura, the supporting plate 261 (as defined by the Patent Office) is located below the lower case 211 only, and not between the upper 221 case and lower case 211.

Further, Ishitani fails to remedy the deficiency of Matsumura as discussed above. That is, neither Matsumura nor Ishitani, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a fuse containing box for directly connecting to and mounting on a battery, wherein the fuse containing box comprises an upper and lower case, each made of a polypropylene-based resin and a supporting plate housed between the upper and lower case and made of a heat-resistant nylon-based resin, as recited in claim 1.

Further, Matsumura cannot be modified such that the supporting plate 261 is located between the cases 221 and 211 without destroying the structure of Matsumura. More specifically, Matsumura discloses that the supporting plate 261 (i.e., resin body 261) is partitioned into dividing portions 263 and 264. Dividing portion 263 is fastened and connected to the battery terminal 271 in a horizontal direction. Dividing portion 264 is fastened and connected to the battery terminal 271 in a vertical direction. See col. 11, line 57 to col. 12, line 7 of Matsumura. Thus, although Figs. 6-8 of Matsumura show a casing above the supporting plate 261, a casing below the supporting plate 261 would not be possible because the supporting plate 261 is attached directly to the battery.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Matsumura and Ishitani, whether alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1, or any of the claims dependent therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

B. Matsumura and Ishitani in View of Yasukuni

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsumura and Ishitani and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,124 (hereinafter "Yasukuni"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and adds that the upper case is formed from a mixture of polypropylene and an elastic resin and the lower case is formed from a mixture of polypropylene and talc.

The Patent Office alleges that Yasukuni discloses upper and lower casings of a fuse containing box formed of various mixtures including polypropylene and an elastic resin, as well as polypropylene and talc. The Office Action further alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the upper and lower casings of the fuse containing box of Matsumura as modified by Ishitani with polypropylene and an elastic resin and/or polypropylene and talc since both mixtures are well known for their heat-resistant qualities.

Even if one of ordinary skill in the art would have found that Yasukuni discloses upper and lower casings of a fuse containing box formed of polypropylene and an elastic resin or formed of polypropylene and talc, the presently claimed invention still would not have been achieved. More specifically, nothing in Yasukuni cures the deficiencies of Matsumura and Ishitani discussed above with respect to claim 1. That is, Matsumura, Ishitani, and/or Yasukuni whether alone or in combination, fail to teach or disclose a fuse containing box for directly connecting to and mounting on a battery, wherein the fuse containing box comprises an upper and lower case, each made of the polypropylene-based resin and a supporting plate housed between the upper and lower case and made of a heat-resistant nylon-based resin, as recited in claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the cited references fail to anticipate or render obvious the features of claim 3. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/tje

Date: October 4, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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